

March 5, 1984

LB 915

follow truth in advertising as much as any supposedly legitimate business that I know of. Right now it is clear that members of the Legislature and Ak-Sar-Ben feel that the off track messenger service is legitimate or they wouldn't be coming in with a bill to abolish them. It is interesting also that Ak-Sar-Ben will get somebody from outside the Omaha area to carry the bill for them. These messenger services don't impact on any of the tracks anywhere else. The bookies are going to continue to book the races. The messenger services are going to continue to operate in one form or another. I think there ought to come a point when the Legislature will say enough. Ak-Sar-Ben is powerful. They will occasionally buy a representative or buy support from a county or buy support from a city by giving an emergency vehicle, or trickle a few nickels and dimes to some of the state and county fairs, and then everybody will say Ak-Sar-Ben is great and give them any and everything they want. I think this bill is inappropriate but I think it probably will go ahead and pass because seldom does any group or any interest which is small get any consideration from this Legislature. Ak-Sar-Ben would continue to flourish even if this bill is not passed. Despite what they might say out there or what anybody else might say, I don't think the existence of the messenger services substantially hurt Ak-Sar-Ben. I am opposed to the bill and I will not support it. We go back again to the principle that I have articulated that there should be gambling for everybody or gambling for nobody, but since there is going to be gambling, Senator Hefner, there naturally will be spin-offs from Just as when any large industry comes into existence, there will be spin-offs. I think rendering plants probably exist as a result of the cattle industry in certain other aspects of agriculture but I haven't heard anybody say that these operations should be wiped out. I don't know exactly why this is being done so I would like to ask Senator Hefner a question, if he would yield. Senator Hefner, will you yield?

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute. Senator Hefner, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Hefner, are you carrying this bill because they told you at Ak-Sar-Ben that these services